

MAY-JUNE 2011

VERANDA

Effortless
Elegance



WINDOWS ON NATURE

THE GLASS PAVILIONS OF A WISCONSIN
LAKE HOUSE TAKE IN THE
SERENE BEAUTY OF ITS SURROUNDINGS.



INTERIOR DESIGN BY SUZANNE LOVELL ARCHITECTURE BY CHIP VON WEISE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY DOUGLAS HOERR PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA RESEN
PRODUCED BY ANNE FOXLEY WRITTEN BY LINDA O'KEEFFE

Glass walls offer a panoramic view of Lake Geneva. THIS PAGE: Custom table with French limestone top. Leather chairs, glassware, china, chargers and linens, all Ralph Lauren Home. Vintage silver candelabrum. OPPOSITE: Bluestone, Halquist Stone. Windows, Quantum Windows & Doors.







An open living-dining room fosters a casual atmosphere. Custom sofa, chaises and lounge chairs and Formations bobbin-style chair with ottomans, all in Kravet fabric. Pillows in Bergamo fabric. Custom wooden tripod lamp. Reading lamps, Cedric Hartman. Side tables, Chris Lehrecke for Ralph Pucci International. Throw, Sam Kasten Handweaver.



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SUZANNE LOVELL STILL SMILES WHEN SHE REMEMBERS THE PHRASE—"IT'S A LAKE HOUSE!"—BANTERED BACK AND FORTH AS SHE WORKED ON SHAUNA AND BARRY MONTGOMERY'S WEEKEND GETAWAY. "BARRY AND I TEASED EACH OTHER WITH THE line," says Lovell, who also designed the couple's last three homes. "But it brought us back to a working reality that the furnishings here needed to act as a modern, casual counterpoint to the antiques in their old-world, formal Chicago penthouse."

Located on nearby Lake Geneva, in Wisconsin, the house's unique design, a compound of seven pavilions linked by glassed-in hallways, evolved out of the couple's conversations with Chicago architect Chip von Weise. They looked at plans with barns, silos and other Wisconsin vernacular elements but deemed them too traditional and cut off from nature. Then the couple saw a light-filled house designed by renowned architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen around the concept of connected pavilions, and inspiration struck. "That's when things started getting interesting," recalls von Weise.

Lovell, based in Chicago and New York, weighed in on everything from materials to ceiling height. "My job is to articulate clients' needs while I amplify the architect's objectives, so I asked questions: 'Will that door be easy to open with a tray in your hands?' 'Does this window height feel right?' That's how we achieved a harmony of intent."

One of her suggestions resulted in the expansion of the largest pavilion, which houses the living and



TOP LEFT: Custom zinc-clad bookcase. Antique trophies. Rug, Edward Fields. Silver tray, Airedelsur. Framed art, Nicolas Carone. LEFT: On porch, Henry Hall Designs sofa, chairs and table in teak. Cushions in Kravet fabric. Pillows in Cowtan & Tout fabrics. Sliding windows, Quantum Windows & Doors. OPPOSITE: Chairs, slipcovers, table and stools, all Bulthaup. Custom limestone counter. Faucets, Dornbracht. Sinks, Franke. Range, Wolf. Hood by architect.



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IT SHOULD NEVER ALIENATE THEM.”

dining spaces inside its three glass walls and thirty-foot-high pyramidal ceiling. “Scale and proportion are crucial,” says Lovell, “particularly so in the great room, where generous gestures were needed because of its height. A room should hold a person. It should never alienate them.”

Shauna Montgomery asked for a crisp white interior, and Lovell’s executions of the color are versatile. They’re warm and approachable but also a stalwart companion to the vivid, constantly changing colors of the open sky, landscape and lake. She and Lovell nixed the idea of dressers, armoires and other customary storage in favor of built-in, white-lacquered cabinets in the bedroom pavilions.

Floors are low-maintenance bluestone or vintage riverbed hemlock that already has an inherent patina. All the upholstery is stain-resistant, as are the table and counter surfaces. “It was important to Shauna that her children be able to walk inside, wet from the pool, and not worry about ruining the furniture,” Lovell says. “The Montgomerys have extremely good taste and entertain graciously, so I made sure to balance utilitarianism with a strong dose of sophistication.”

Landscape architect Douglas Hoerr downplayed property lines in favor of sight lines that incorporate the neighboring country club’s golf course. As a result, the residence lays visual claim to more acreage than it actually owns. Hoerr turned the courtyards into microcosms of the surrounding landscape by planting simple pachysandra ground cover around quaking aspen trees.

“With so many glass walls and corridors, you’re inside and outside the house at the same time,” says Barry Montgomery. “The lake is always within sight. When you walk through the house, it’s as if you’re strolling down an outdoor path.” □

A single palette and minimal accessories make the room feel spa-like. Custom chairs, ottoman and bed, all in Rogers & Goffigon linen. Bedcovers and pillows in pique, Leontine. Embroidered pillow, Rosemary Halgarten. Lamp, Ralph Lauren Home. Curtains in Coraggio Textiles fabric. Throw, Rani Arabella. Rug, Keleen Leathers. Art, Bernd Haussmann.







Gutsy forms carry a simple design. THIS PAGE: Tub, Philippe Starck for Hoesch Design. Faucets, Dornbracht. Marble, Chadwick's Surfaces International. Stools, Waterworks. OPPOSITE, TOP: Custom beds. Pillowcases and coverlets, Leontine. Chair, Formations, in Kravet fabric. Rug, Edward Fields. Art, Elizabeth Stockton. BOTTOM: Chaises and table, Richard Schultz. Pillow fabric and towels, Ralph Lauren Home.





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Vintage Adirondack chairs invite lakeside lounging in the summer and fireside chats in early fall. **opposite:** Shutters, von Weise Associates, Throw, Sam Kasten Handweaver.